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Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 70/97 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities made available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/71/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX), Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard but also for study at the post primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI), offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme has been included in successive editions of the guide entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions, the most recent of which is resolution 70/97, the Secretary-General submits to the General Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[1] The present report, which covers the period from 5 March 2015 to 5 March 2016, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 70/97.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 64 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the relevant General Assembly resolutions:

> Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State, the Holy See, has also offered scholarships.

[1] The most recent report is contained in document A/70/66.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Argentina

7. In a note verbale dated 27 January 2016, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 2065 (XX) and in subsequent resolutions, and the Special Committee on decolonization have described the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation, as it involves a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; have established that the way to put an end to that situation is the peaceful and negotiated solution of the sovereignty dispute; and have requested both Governments to continue without delay the bilateral negotiations.
>
> Despite the illegal British occupation, because the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands are part of the Argentine national territory, their inhabitants have equality of access with the rest of the Argentine population to the Argentine public education system. This includes free education at the primary, secondary and tertiary/university levels, as well as the benefits of the national scholarship programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic.

Cuba

8. In a note verbale dated 2 February 2016, the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

> Contribution of the Republic of Cuba to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/97, entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories", adopted on 9 December 2015.

Scholarship recipients from Non-Self-Governing Territories (undergraduate level) studying in Cuba (2015)

Territory	*MINSAP*	*MES*	*EIEFD*	*MINED*	*Total*
United States Virgin Islands	1	0	0	0	1
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	111	10	0	0	121
Total	**112**	**10**	**0**	**0**	**122**

Scholarship recipients from Non-Self-Governing Territories who graduated in Cuba during the 2014/15 academic year, by institution

				MINED		
Territory	*MINSAP*	*MES*	*EIEFD*	*Higher secondary*	*Secondary*	*Total*
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	41	3	0	5	0	49
Total	**41**	**3**	**0**	**5**	**0**	**49**

Scholarship recipients from Non-Self-Governing Territories who have graduated in Cuba as of 2015, by institution

				MINED		
Territory	*MINSAP*	*MES*	*EIEFD*	*Higher secondary*	*Secondary*	*Total*
Anguilla	1	2	0	0	0	3
Bermuda	1	1	0	0	0	2
Montserrat	0	1	0	0	0	1
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	333	1 046	4	204	935	2 522
Total	**335**	**1 050**	**4**	**204**	**935**	**2 528**

Abbreviations: EIEFD, International School of Physical Education and Sports; MES, Ministry of Higher Education; MINED, Ministry of Education; MINSAP, Ministry of Public Health.

France

9. In a communication dated 25 January 2016, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

Students in New Caledonia are eligible for State financial aid from three ministries: the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Overseas Territories and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Scholarships from the Ministry of Education

These scholarships are administered by the Office of the Vice-Rector. State scholarships are meant to promote access to higher education, improve the conditions in which recipients pursue their studies and help them succeed. The Ministry of Education offers higher-education scholarships to students who are nationals of France or of another State member of the European Union, another State party to the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation. Foreign students are also eligible for such scholarships under certain conditions.

Higher-education scholarships are initially awarded on the basis of financial need. Students must meet age and diploma requirements, in addition to income-related requirements.

Need-based financial aid is divided into eight levels; at level 0, university fees are waived, and at level 7, a monthly grant of 66,169 CFP francs (554.5 euros) is provided.

There is also a merit component, which supplements the need-based scholarship. This supplementary aid is available only to students who have obtained a secondary-school diploma (*baccalauréat*) with highest honours (*mention "très bien"*) in the *baccalauréat* examination held the year before their first year of university or first year of enrolment in an institution of higher education.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for a need-based scholarship, the student must be enrolled in a course of study that is within the purview of the Ministry of Education:

- in a first-degree programme in New Caledonia (LMD, BTS, DGC or CPGE programme[2] or business school);
- in a public or private educational institution;
- in a course of study that is authorized to admit scholarship recipients.

Age requirements:

- Under 28 years of age at the time of the initial scholarship application;
- Students aged 28 or over may continue to receive a scholarship provided that they do not interrupt their studies;
- For all students, the age limit is increased by one year for each child being raised by the student;
- The age limit is waived for students with disabilities.

Number of scholarship recipients:

	2012		*2013*		*2014*		*2015*	
	Number	*Amount awarded (€)*	*Number*	*Amount awarded (€)*	*Number*	*Amount awarded (€)*	*Number*	*Amount awarded (€)*
Need-based scholarships	1 041	4 087 040	1 017	3 649 437	1 138	4 407 508	1 333	5 010 655
Merit supplement	13	20 000	6	10 400	15	28 400	25	47 800
Total	**1 054**	**4 107 040**	**1 023**	**3 659 837**	**1 153**	**4 435 908**	**1 358**	**5 058 455**

Assistance from the Ministry of Overseas Territories

Through loans from the Ministry of Overseas Territories, the State, by financing the Cadres for the Future programme, is cooperating in the rebalancing process and in enabling Kanaks to attain leadership positions in

[2] LMD: *licence, master, doctorat* (bachelor's-master's-doctorate); BTS: *brevet de technicien supérieur* (two-year technical certificate); DGC: *diplôme de gestion et comptabilité* (business and accounting degree); CPGE: *classes préparatoires aux grandes écoles* (preparatory classes for admission to the French specialized professional schools).

New Caledonia. Students from New Caledonia are also eligible for the "Mobility Passport" scheme, under which the State pays all or part of the cost of air travel for New Caledonians wishing to pursue studies in metropolitan France.

The Cadres for the Future programme and the Mobility Passport scheme are administered in New Caledonia by the public benefit corporation Training Cadres for the Future, created jointly by the State and New Caledonia. Ninety per cent of this entity's financing is provided by the State.

Cadres for the Future programme

The "400 Cadres" programme, subsequently renamed Cadres for the Future, is aimed primarily at continuing-education students who, for historical, cultural or financial reasons, have been unable to complete a full course of post-secondary studies. As a result of this programme, a quantitative rebalancing is beginning to take place in all sectors of activity.

State financing for this programme has grown significantly, rising from 1.4 million euros in 1990 to 5.4 million euros in 2005, a level that has since stabilized and was formally established in 2007.

Over 1,580 participants, 71 per cent of whom are of Kanak origin, have been trained under the 400 Cadres and Cadres for the Future programmes.

The programme was completed by 85 trainees in 2014 and 57 trainees in 2015. Since the programme's inception, 55 trainees per year, on average, have left the territory to undertake training in metropolitan France; 80 per cent of them have successfully completed their programmes. Over 95 per cent of the trainees have found employment within three months after returning to New Caledonia.

Priority sectors for the provision of aid under the programme are identified on a regular basis by a monitoring committee consisting of New Caledonian political stakeholders. Since 2012, priority has been given to training for the legal and judicial fields, but also for the senior civil service.

Lastly, since 2014 the State has supplemented its support for the Cadres for the Future programme by providing an annual grant of 300,000 euros to the Training Cadres for the Future public benefit corporation for the purpose of funding MBA-type training. In 2014, seven trainees benefited from this targeted assistance aimed at training high-level managers in the private sector.

Mobility Passport

This scheme is fully funded by the State. It consists of the full or partial payment of overseas students' air travel expenses for flights between their territory of origin and metropolitan France for the purpose of higher education (whether academic or continuing education) or participation in competitive examinations.

There are thus two types of Mobility Passport: one for education and one for professional training.

Aid is awarded on the basis of financial need, and only in cases where the training to be undertaken is not available in the territory of origin.

Under the Mobility Passport for education, assistance is provided up to:

- The full cost of air travel, if the recipient has also been awarded a need-based State scholarship,
- Half the cost of air travel, if the student's family quotient does not exceed 26,631 euros.

Assistance under the Mobility Passport for professional training covers the full cost of air travel if the applicant's family quotient does not exceed 26,631 euros (annual income/number of tax units).

Since 2014, the Mobility Passport scheme as a whole has been allocated a funding package of 2.2 million euros per year. Over 1,130 students have received assistance each year since 2014.

Scholarships from the Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture awards scholarships for tertiary studies in agriculture in New Caledonia. The target population thus consists of the students enrolled in the BTSA[3] programme at the Pouembout secondary school for agricultural studies.

The scholarship is awarded solely on the basis of financial need, and the eligibility criteria are similar to those of the Ministry of Education.

Since 2013, the Ministry of Agriculture has disbursed the following amounts (in euros):

2013		*2014*		*2015*	
Number of recipients	*Amount awarded (€)*	*Number of recipients*	*Amount awarded (€)*	*Number of recipients*	*Amount awarded (€)*
10	31 491	12	52 397	15	45 423

New Zealand

10. In a note verbale dated 28 January 2016, the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations informed the Secretariat of the following:

The Government of New Zealand has offered 11 short-term training awards (for up to one year of study in New Zealand) in 2016 to residents of Tokelau. They will be studying carpentry/building construction, electrical engineering, plumbing and computing/information and communications technology (ICT) because these vocational skills were prioritized by their communities and employers. A further two were unfortunately declined by their institutions of choice for maritime training because they did not have sufficient sea time, and were advised to reapply once they have fulfilled this requirement.

The Government of New Zealand provides budget support to the Government of Tokelau to provide and administer its scholarships. Tokelau provides scholarships for undergraduate students at tertiary education institutions in the Pacific and New Zealand. In addition, residents of Tokelau

[3] *Brevet de technicien supérieur agricole* (two-year technical certificate in agriculture).

benefit from workshops and customized training delivered by various regional programmes that the Government of New Zealand funds.

As New Zealand citizens, Tokelauans are also eligible for a range of domestic scholarships as well as government-subsidized access to New Zealand education facilities.

III. Applications made through the United Nations

11. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

12. From 5 March 2015 to 5 March 2016, no requests for information on the availability of scholarships were received by the Secretariat.

IV. Conclusion

13. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.